In the Specification

On page 1, above the heading "Field of invention", please add the heading -CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS-

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On page 1, below the above newly added heading, please insert a new paragraph as follows: -- This application is a continuation of our co-pending application serial number 08/881,113 filed on June 24, 1997. --

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In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1 through 24 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 25 through 42 as follows:

25(Added). A method of disseminating information over a wide area network, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a central caching unit having at least one network address associated therewith and operative to receive data over said network from servers storing data providing information content;

b) storing received cacheable data from said servers at said central caching unit;

c) broadcasting cacheable data from said central caching unit over a satellite broadcast system directly to distributed local caching units associated with local access nodes giving remote users access to said wide area network for the retrieval of data from said servers;

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d) selectively storing said broadcast data at said local access nodes in said local caching units; and

e) receiving requests from users at said local access nodes for data stored in said associated local caching unit, and if said data is stored in the associated local caching unit providing said data to the requesting user, otherwise re-routing said requests to retrieve said data over said wide area network.

26(Added). A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein a program running at said local access nodes selects what incoming broadcast data to save and discard.

27(Added). A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein said wide area network is the Internet.

28(Added). A method of disseminating data over a wide area network, comprising:

providing a central caching unit operative to store cachable data;

transferring data over said wide area network to said central caching unit from servers distributed over said wide area network and storing said data in said central caching unit;

selectively broadcasting stored data from said central caching unit over a satellite broadcast system directly to distributed local caching units associated with local access nodes giving remote users access to said wide area network in accordance with a scheme determined by a control program at said central caching unit;

providing a control program at said local access nodes to determine which of said broadcast data is stored in said local caching units;

providing access to said associated local caching units for users connected to said local access nodes to avoid retrieving said data from said servers over said wide area network when requested data is resident in said associated local caching unit.

29(Added). A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein requests for data from said local caching units are re-routed over said wide area network when said requested data is not resident in said associated local caching unit.

30(Added). A method of disseminating data over a wide area network, comprising:

providing a central caching unit operative to store cachable data;

transferring data over said wide area network to said central caching unit from servers distributed over said wide area network and storing said data in said central caching unit;

selectively broadcasting stored data from said central caching unit over a satellite broadcast system directly to distributed local caching units associated with local access nodes giving remote users access to said wide area network on the basis of interest in said data attributed to specific communities;

receiving said broadcast data at said local access nodes and storing said received data in said associated local caching units; and

providing access to said associated local caching units for users connected to said local access nodes to avoid retrieving said data from said servers over said wide area network when requested data is resident in said associated local caching unit.

31(Added). A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said selective broadcasting of said stored data is controlled by a daemon at said central caching unit.

32(Added). A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein a program running at said local access nodes determines whether to save or discard received broadcast data .

33(Added). A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said wide area network is the Internet.

34(Added). An information dissemination system, comprising:

a plurality of distributed access nodes connected to a wide area network and having local caching units associated therewith,

a central caching unit for caching data for dissemination to users connected to a wide area network; said caching unit receiving said data over said wide area network;

a control unit at said central caching unit for controlling the broadcast of said cached data over a satellite broadcast system directly to said local caching units; and

said local caching units receiving requests from users for cached data and supplying said data if resident on said local cache, and otherwise redirecting said requests over said wide area network.

35(Added). A system as claimed in claim 34, wherein said local access nodes include a computer running a program to select what incoming broadcast data to save and discard.

36(Added). A system as claimed in claim 34, wherein said wide area network is the Internet.

37(Added). An information dissemination system, comprising:

servers distributed over a wide area network and operative to store data for dissemination;

a central caching unit operative to store cachable data;

a software utility for transferring data over a wide area network to said central caching unit from said servers;

a plurality of distributed local access nodes giving remote users access to said wide area network, said local access nodes being associated with local caching units;

a satellite broadcast system for selectively broadcasting stored data from said central caching unit directly to said distributed local caching units in accordance with a

scheme determined by a control program at said central caching unit; and

a computer at said local access nodes for running a control program to determine which of said broadcast data is stored in said local caching units;

whereby said users can retrieve requested data directly from said local caching units when said requested data is resident therein without establishing a connection with said servers over said wide area network.

38(Added). A system as claimed in claim 37, wherein said local access nodes include a router for re-routing requests for data from said local caching units are over said wide area network when said requested data is not resident in said associated local caching unit.

39(Added). An information dissemination system, comprising:

servers distributed over a wide area network and operative to store data for dissemination;

a central caching unit operative to store cachable data;

a software utility for transferring data over a wide area network to said central caching unit from said servers;

a plurality of distributed local access nodes giving remote users access to said wide area network, said local access nodes being associated with local caching units;

a satellite broadcast system for selectively broadcasting stored data from said central caching unit directly to said distributed local caching units on the basis of interest in said data attributed to specific communities; and

transferring data over said wide area network to said central caching unit from servers distributed over said wide area network and storing said data in said central caching unit;

receivers for receiving said broadcast data at said local access nodes;

whereby said users can retrieve requested data directly from said local caching units when said requested data is resident therein without establishing a connection with said servers over said wide area network and storing said received data in said associated local caching units.

40(Added). A system as claimed in claim 39, further comprising a daemon at said central caching unit controlling said selective broadcasting of said stored data.